

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

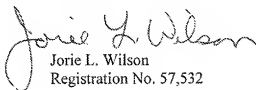
The Examiner is specifically thanked for the courtesies extended during the interview of September, 24 2010. During the interview, amendments to claim 1 were discussed in relation to the applied prior art references, especially Demissie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,777,119). Applicant's representative argued that the prior art does not show a controlling arrangement to control the amount of hydrogen recycled and to tap off, externally of the power generation apparatus for use in a separate process, hydrogen that is not recycled. The Examiner agreed that this language distinguished over the prior art of record but indicated that further searching would be required. In view of the Examiner's comments, claim 1 has been amended as discussed during the interview. Specifically, the "external use" of the hydrogen has been more definitely claimed as tapped off externally of the power generation apparatus. In contrast, the apparatus of Demissie et al. incorporates a burner to burn off excess hydrogen internally of the apparatus. Based on these amendments and the agreements reached, favorable reconsideration is requested.

During the interview, additional claim limitations were also discussed. For consideration by the Examiner, these further distinguishing limitations have been set forth in new claims 41-43. Specifically, in new dependent claim 41, the recycling arrangement includes a recycle path connecting an outlet of the fuel cell to an inlet of the fuel cell and the controlling arrangement is fluidly connected in the recycle path between the outlet and the inlet. In accordance with these limitations, the controlling arrangement, for example valve 30 shown in Figure 1, must be fluidly connected in the recycle path. This further distinguishes from Demissie et al. wherein pressure control valve 53 of Figure 4, as relied on by the Examiner, is not in any way located within recycling loop 28. New dependent claims 42 and 43 provide further specifics of the preferred embodiment wherein the controlling arrangement employs a three-way valve, while new dependent claim 44 introduces the condenser of the apparatus which is connected to the valve. Dependent claims 45-47 mirror claims 41-43, while being dependent more directly

from claim 1. New independent claim 48 which tracks claim 1 as amended with some slight re-arranging of the wording for consideration by the Examiner. Finally, new dependent claims 49-51 track the limitations set forth in claims 41-43 respectively.

Based on the above remarks, the amendments to the claims and the agreements reached with the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentably defined over the prior art of record such that allowance of all claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional questions or concerns regarding the allowance of the application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the number provided below in order to further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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